nature net

The **Nature***Kenya* Newsletter -www.naturekenya.org- May 2001

REPORTING

From the Chairman

Revised Nature Kenya strategy

We are now more than half-woy through our four-year strategic plan (which runs from 1999-2002). Last December we held a weekend workshop to laok at progress so for (generolly good) and review our plonned octivities. The result was a revised strategy for 2001-2002. This has naw been appraved by the Executive Committee.

The **aim** af the East Africa Natural History Society remains to promote the study of natural history, and conservation of the naturol environment, in eastern Africa.

In Kenya, the 'headline' **mission** of Nature Kenya is **action for biodiversity conservation.** In pursuing this mission, we are trying to:

- build a strong canstituency for conservation acrass the country
- enhonce knowledge of Kenyo's biodiversity
- advacate palicies favourable ta biodiversity conservation
- promote conservotion of key species, sites, ond habitots
- encouroge community porticipotion in conservation through promotion of sustainable benefits

Far the present four-year plan, our averall gaal is to **enhance the conservation of biodiversity in Kenya**. More immediately, we are working to establish Nature Kenya as a strang, independent, significant contributor to the conservotion of biodiversity in Kenya.

Our work from 1999-2002 should ochieve the following results:

1 General public's understanding af biadiversity improved
2 Biodiversity priorities identified, studied, documented ond disseminated
3 Nature Kenya's influence an decisians affecting biadiversity increased
4 Action for pratectian of key species, sites, and habitats specified and initiated
5 Nature Kenyo membership increased and braadened
6 Basic operating costs cavered by diversified, sustainable funding sources
7 Effectiveness and efficiency of Nature Kenya management and administratian enhonced

For each of these results, the plon sets out specific activities thot we need to corry out. It also lists indicotors that we need to measure to see whether we have achieved our expectations.

The revised plan gives us focus and direction, and redirects efforts to same areas where progress has been slawer than haped. Members are welcome to read it in the Nature Kenya affice, ar ta request o copy (we will need ta make a small charge for photocopying).

Administrative restructuring

As the scole and complexity of Nature Kenya's octivities continue to expand, we hove to adapt our structures to keep pace and make sure thot the Society works effectively.

The departure af our Executive Officer, Philip Adolwa, for the USA last Navember prampted a re-examination af who daes what in Nature Kenya. The Executive Committee decided that it was time ta create a new management structure that would make responsibilities clearer, create raam far further growth and make aperotions more effective.

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91ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MAY 2001 MAIN LIBRARY

EAST AFRICA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY (Nature*Kenya*)

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

Monday 14 May 2001 at 5:30 pm at the Louis Leakey M. Hall, National Museum, Nairobi

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

This year, the AGM will feature presentations by all of Nature Kenya's Committees and Projects, describing their activities and accomplishments.

Come and see Nature Kenya in its many manifestations!

Action for Biodiversity Conservation

NATURE KENYA, P. O. Box 44486, 00100 Nairobi. Tel: 749957 / 746090 Fax: 741049 E-mail: eanhs@africaonline.co.ke

WORKSHOP

RESPONDING TO THE ASIAN VULTURE CRISIS:

A WORKSHOP TO SET PRIORITIES FOR VULTURE MONITORING AND CONSERVATION IN KENYA

In the last few years, a serious conservation crisis has emerged among vulture species in Asia. Populations of *Gyps* vultures have crashed dramatically in a remarkably short time. The cause is not yet known, but an unidentified infectious disease seems likely. Sick birds 'droop' and soon after die.

So far, vultures in Africa have been spared. If the problem does spreod to Africa, as seems likely, we need to be prepared to recognise it and deal with it. In the meantime, our vultures also face many other serious threats, ranging from incidental poisoning to loss of habitat and nest sites. Two East African vulture species are now listed for the first time as Globally Threatened.

As a first step in tackling these issues, the Peregrine Fund, Nature Kenya and the Ornithology Department, NMK, are organising a vulture seminar and workshop on 10 May 2001, from 09:00-18:00. The meeting will inform participants about the Asian vulture crisis and current responses in the region, and outline a strategy and action plan for vulture monitoring and conservation in Kenya.

Space permitting, the meeting is open to all who are interested - but please register **in advance** with the Nature Kenya office (by e-mail, post, fax or phone). More background information and the detailed programme are available from Nature Kenya or the Ornithology Department.

Continued from page 1

The new structure consists of a management team headed by an Executive Director. There are, in effect, three main units: the conservation programme, headed by Solomon Mwangi, membership services, headed by Catherine Ngarachu, and administration and development, headed by Elizabeth Maloba. Paul Matiku, our new Executive Director, has overall responsibility for co-ordinating the team and keeping work on track in line with the strategic plan. Matiku also continues a strong technical input into our programme of conservation advocacy and action.

As well as re-designations, the last quarter has seen some changes in personnel. We warmly welcome Elizabeth Maloba as Administration and Development Manager. TBA/Nature Kenya Project Officer Anthony Kuria left in January to begin an MSc course in Conservation Biology ot Cape Town. He has handed over his tasks to Lawrence Maina, while Daniel Kathurima, formerly FONA Project Officer, took up a new role co-ordinating the TBA Alumnus Association. In turn, Lilian Igweta has stepped into Daniel's shoes — welcome, Lilian!

Proposed subscription rate increases

Part of Nature Kenya's strategy for financial sustainobility is to make sure that membership costs are covered by income from subscriptions. Nature Kenya subscription rates have remained unchanged since 1997.

This is a period in which postage, printing and communications costs have risen dramatically. At the moment subscriptions fall far short of covering the costs per member. Increases in subscription rates proposed by the Executive Committee will be discussed at the forthcoming AGM. If approved, these will go some way to meeting the shortfall. We hope the ongoing membership recruitment drive will do the rest - the more members we have, the less the unit cost of running members' services.

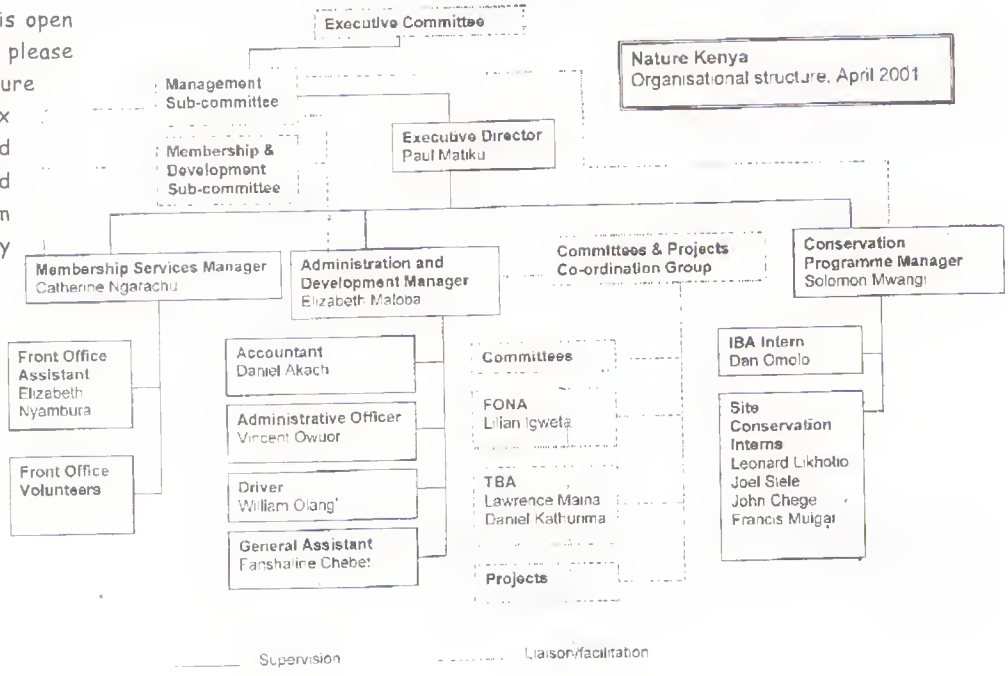
The proposed new subscription rates :

Full	800/-
Family	1000/-
Pensioners	300/-
Students	300/-
Institutional	1000/-
Conservation Group	150/-
Sponsor	3000/-

Help us to keep Nature Kenya subscription rates at affordable levels by recruiting o new member - or two! Remember for every member you introduce you receive an Eagle Lapel pin, a packet of postcards or a Nature Kenya bumper sticker.

Annual General Meeting

The new subscription rates will be discussed at this year's AGM, on Monday 14 May. This is also your chance to elect a new Executive Committee, to hear about your Society's activities over the last year, and to ask questions about any aspect of Nature Kenya's work. I look forward to seeing you there!



REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Sunday Birdwatch (Pot-Luck Outing)

Members meet at the National Museum, Nairobi car park at 9:00 a.m. the third Sunday of every month, **i.e. 20 May**. The members decide where to go. Bring lunch.

TREE WALK

Guided Tree Walks in the Nairobi Arboretum on the last Monday of every month i.e. **28 May from 9:30 a.m**. Meet at the FONA offices beside the Girl Guides HQ. *Those who are not members of FONA pay Ksh 100/- fee on arrival at the gate.*

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIRDWALKS

Bird watching walks at sites in and around Nairobi. Meet at the National Museum car park every Wednesday at 8:45 a.m. Return about 12:30 p.m. *Those who are not members can get temporary membership at Ksh 100 per birdwalk, payable on arrival at the car park.*

ARABUKO SOKOKE (COAST)

The Saturday birdwatch with the Arabuko Sokoke Forest Guides Association is on the first Saturday of each month i.e. **5 May, at 6:30 a.m.** from the Visitor Centre, Gede. Cost 100/- per person.

FFJ Bird Walk (Coast)

The Friends of Fort Jesus birdwalks are held the third Saturday of each month i.e. **19 May, at 4:30 p.m.** from Ratna Square

DECLARATION

Nature Kenya does not accept any responsibility whatsoever in respect of negligence of any of its staff, volunteers or members organising the outings/trips or for any for loss, injury, death or damage to property.

MAY DIARY

Sat 5	Sokoke Birdwalk
Mon 14	EANHS AGM
Sat 19	FFJ Birdwalk
Sun 20	Sunday Birdwatch
Mon 28	Arboretum Tree Walk
Birdwalks every Wednesday Morning	

Editor, **Catherine Ngarachu**

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

FUNDAMENTALS OF BAT ECOLOGY AND CONSERVATION

A field training course, organised by the National Museums of Kenya, Bat Conservation International, USA., and the Taita Discovery Centre.

Dates: May 12-18 2001 (6 nights)
Limited Spaces Available: Sign up now by contacting Steve Turner, Tel # 222075, Fax # 330698,
e-mail - eaos@africaonline.co.ke

Costs: With TDC transport incl to/from Nairobi - Kshs 22,500 per person.
Use your own transport - Kshs 16,500 per person, Kenya Professional Guides Association Members - CREDIT of Kshs 3,000 per person

Bird Hotline

Please note the records below are unconfirmed

Hundreds of Lesser Kestrels *Masai Gate, Nairobi N. Park/ Apr* Norinder Heyer

Pair of Yellow-billed Starks nesting *Tiwi River mouth/ Apr* Kevin Mazera

Pangani Longclaw, Great Spotted Cuckao *Athi Plains/ Mar*
Leman Dave, Cinnaman Bracken Warbler, Scarce Swift *Gatamaiyu Forest/ Feb*
Shailesh Patel, Bernord Chege, Bernd de Bruijn

2 Magpie Mannikins, *Tana Delta Camp/ Feb*
Jean and Judy Anne Hartley

6 White-headed Mousebirds *Amboseli National Park/*
African Finfoot, Zebra Waxbill, Croaking Cisticola *Nairobi National Park/ Feb*
Philip Hechle

Please send details to *Kenya Birds*, c/o Nature Kenya or email: kbirds@africaonline.co.ke

Remember to renew your membership!

We need your support!
Recruit **one** other member!

EXCURSIONS

POSTPONED!

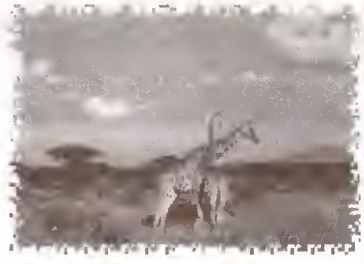
YOUTH TRIP!
WILLIAM HOLDEN EDUCATION CENTRE, NANYUKI

Thank you to all who expressed an interest in this outing. Unfortuately, we were not able to get the dates desired, but we'll keep you updated.

WEEKEND GETAWAYS

Camping at Kitengela, on the Hopcraft Farm,

Friday 22 to Sunday 24 June '01



Photos by Solomon Ngari

A hiking and birdwatching weekend, near Nairobi. Cost: Ksh 600/- per person

The campsite facilities include a covered dining area with table and chairs, hot showers and pit latrines.

This is a do it yourself trip where you will need to bring everything you think you will need, such as your own drinking water, food and camping gear.

Meet at the National Museums car park on Friday at 4:00 p.m./ depart Kitengela at 3:30 p.m. on the Sunday.

Book by 15 June '01 and please let us know if you can give lifts.

PUBLICATIONS

SEED DISPERSAL AND FOREST REGENERATION IN A TROPICAL LOWLAND BIOCOENOSIS (SHIMBA HILLS, KENYA) BY THOMAS R. ENGEL

Now available in the Nature Kenya/ National Museum library

This work provides basic information about the Shimba Hills National Reserve in coastal Kenya. Furthermore, several new and generally valid methodological and theoretical aspects of regeneration ecology are discussed.